Irrigation potential in Tamil Nadu

874. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total irrigation potential created in Tamil Nadu during 1989-90;

(b) whether some new irrigation projects are proposed to be set up to increase that potential; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the irrigation potential of the State likely to be increased in the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Irrigation potential created in Tamil Nadu during 1989-90 is anticipated to be 24.42 th. ha.

(b) and (c) The State Government proposes to take up 1 major and 2 medium irrigation projects in VIII Plan. The implementation of these schemes will depend on allocation of funds by the State Government. The programme for irrigation development in the State during the next three years has not been finalised.

Names of Inter-State Water Disputes

875. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of Inter-State water disputes in the country and since when these are pending;

(b) what steps have been taken to resolve these disputes and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to streamline to process to ensure quick solution of such disputes;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be resolved; and

(e) the names of disputes referred for arbitration and the date on which this was done?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) to (e) Under the provisions of Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, two disputes, namely, sharing of surplus Ravi and Beas waters and sharing of Cauvery waters have been referred to the Tribunals in April, 1986 and June, 1990 respectively. While Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal has given the Report in January, 1987, the Government of India and party States have made further reference as envisaged under the Act to seek explanation/guidance of the Tribunal on its Report, Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has held six sittings. As regards the proposal from Madhya Pradesh for consideration of the questions associated with Mahi-Bajaj Sagar under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, a preliminary Inter-State meeting was held on February 6, 1991. The Act does not specify any time limit for Tribunal to give its decision. In addition there are some Inter-State issues pertaining to matters such as interpretation of earlier agreements and sharing of surplus waters. With a view to enable amicable settlement of Inter-State issues in Water Resources between the States, a Standing Committee of the National Water Resources Council has been constituted in April, 1990.

Plant for desalinating sea water

876. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to establish a desalinating sea water plant on an experimental basis to help in easing the drinking water shortage problem;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to establish such plants at Madras and other places which are located on the sea shore

and are suffering from acute water shortage?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise, as no spcific detailed project report for setting up of desalinating sea water plant, to meet shortage of drinking water in Madras or any other city in the country has so far been received.

Promotions to the Post of Assistant Manager on ad-hoc basis in Telecom Factories

877. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about fifteen Assistant Engineers or Engineers of Telecom Factories have been promoted to the post of Assistant Manager on ad-hoc basis without holding the proper departmental promotion committee meeting;

(b) whether in the process of such ad-hoc promotion some meritorious service holders have been denied their rightful claims for being promoted as Assistant Managers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken to remove the discontentment amongst the meritorious staff holding the post of Assistant Engineer/Engineers in Telecom Factories in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) Yes, Sir. Since the promotion is on purely ad-hoc basis for a period not exceeding one year, no regular DPC was convened and the promotion was purely on seniority-cum-fitness.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) In view or reply to (b) above, does not arise.

Possibility of the use of nuclear weapons in the Gulf War

878. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the statements made by key U.S. authorities indicating the active consideration of the use of nuclear weapons in the Gulf war; if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(b) whether Government are prepared to review their nuclear policy and to consider using their option of converting our nuclear weapons capability into nuclear weapons grade capacity if the U.S. actually uses nuclear weapons in the Gulf War?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) During a television interview of 2nd February, 1991, the US Vice President, Quayle said, "I just cannot imagine President Bush making the decision . . . . to use chemical or nuclear weapons under any circumstances." The US Vice President suggested that Allied conventional forces were so superior that a "proper response to a first use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi's would be to continue our very devastating campaign with conventional weapons." He indicated however, that the administration will "never rule any options out. The Government issued a statement on 8th February, 1991, expressing deep concern on this issue. A copy of the Statement is attached.

Statement

Government of India is deeply concerned over statements made recently by the parties engaged in the Gulf conflict, emanating from very high levels, regarding the